



The leading name in wide plank flooring



Installation & Finishing Instructions

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Introduction

There are many different methods and techniques for installing wide plank wood floors. We've included the ones that have worked best for our customers over the past 30 years. **Please read all of the instructions before beginning.** Then, feel free to call us and ask specific questions, because not all subfloors—or flooring—are the same. Every member of our sales staff is trained, hands-on, in the most up-to-date installation techniques and will be happy to answer any questions you may have about your particular situation.

Please Note: **These instructions apply only to Carlisle products.** We cannot guarantee similar results with other companies' products.

Because a Carlisle wide plank floor increases the value of any home, we recommend that, for insurance purposes, the owner of this floor fill out the included **Owner's Card** [at the back of this manual]. It should then be placed in a safety deposit box, along with an inventory of other home furnishings and valuable belongings, as well as appropriate receipts and photos, or mailed to Carlisle. This precaution could contribute to a quick and fair settlement should a loss occur.

Congratulations on your purchase of a custom wide plank floor from Carlisle Restoration Lumber.



Illus: 1
Hans reviews the manual.

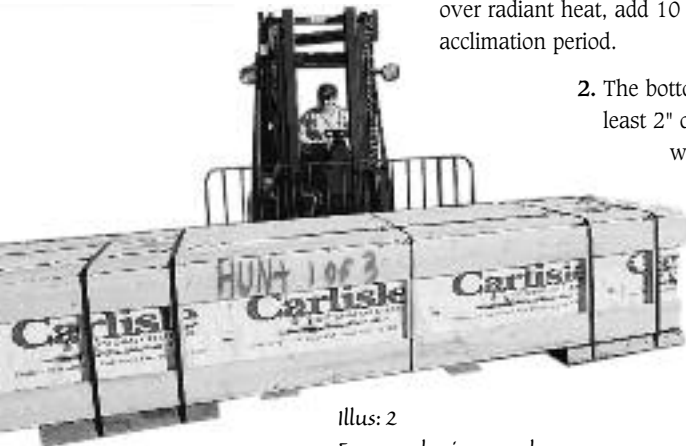
Staking the Flooring for Acclimation

The most important step to proper installation of a wide plank floor is acclimating the wood to its intended environment before installation.

The acclimation process is used to ensure that movement in the planks, if any, occurs before you install the floor and not after!

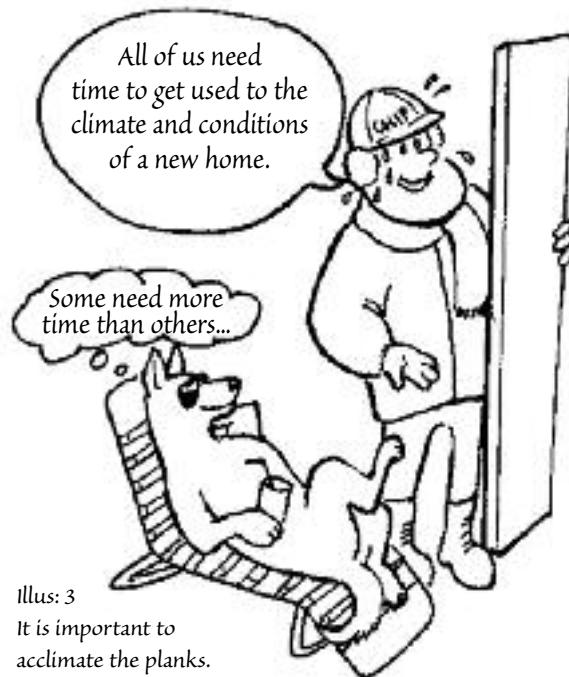
1. To properly acclimate the flooring to your home, the wood should be stacked in rows parallel to one another for 8-10 days minimum (longer is fine) in the same area where the floors are to be installed. All heat or air systems should be working and set at "live in" temperatures. This will allow the flooring to acclimate to your specific climate. If your flooring will be installed over radiant heat, add 10 days to your acclimation period.

2. The bottom board should be at least 2" off of the floor, set up with wood stakes or 2x4" boards. Four 2x4" boards about 3 feet apart should be sufficient to properly support the initial layer of planks (refer to illus: 4, pg. 4).



illus: 2

Every order is securely packaged for safe travel.



illus: 3

It is important to acclimate the planks.

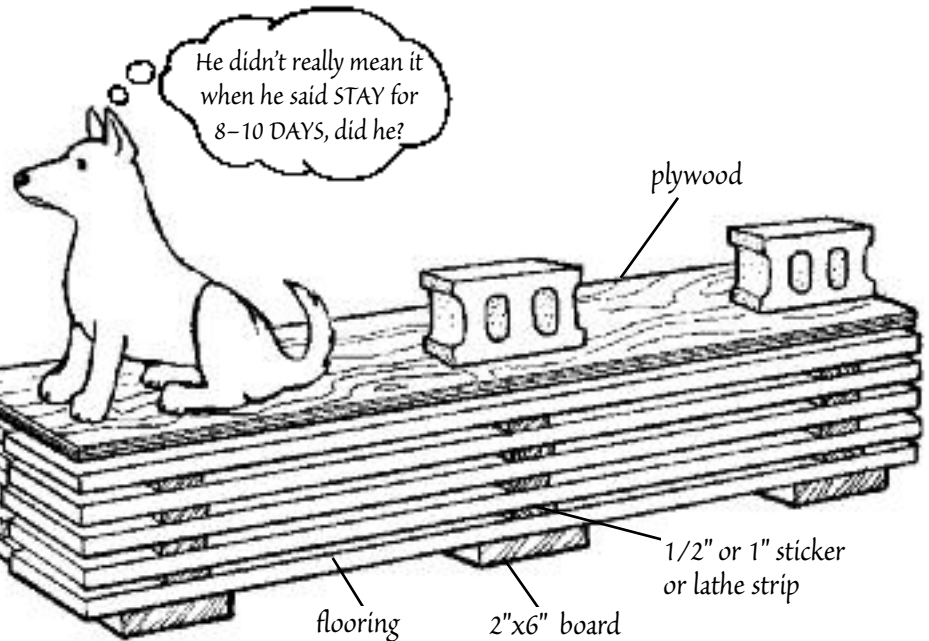
3. The "stickers" or "stakes" are also called "lathe strips," which you can find at a local hardware store or lumber yard. These are similar to 1/8" firing strips. Make sure you get dried stakes because "green" stakes can stain the boards.

4. Place two boards, side by side, on the 2x4's. Then place your stakes, or lathe strips, on top of these boards directly over the 2x4" boards. Keeping the consecutive layer of stakes in line creates a more stable pile.

5. Now place the next two boards side by side over the stakes. There must be a series of lathe strips between each layer of boards. Make sure the edges of each layer are flush with the layer below.

6. Put the next layer of stakes directly in line with the other stakes under the board and so on.

7. On the top of the last board, you will want to supply some weight directly over the stakes. We recommend a sheet of plywood with cement blocks or some other weight over each of the stakes. This will provide an even distribution of weight on every board. This will also eliminate cupping on the top board (if there is no weight on the top boards, they may cup because they are not adhered to any surface). Note: Refer to illus: 4 if there are any questions.

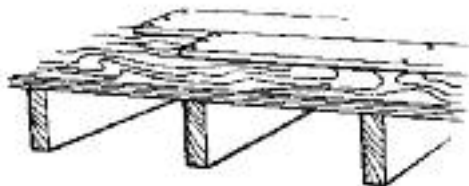


illus: 4
Stack your planks properly in their intended environment.

8. Please note that if some cupping occurs, you may flip these boards over and they will flatten back out.

Find Your Subfloor

Find your subfloor, then see the following pages for the appropriate installation instructions.



Plywood & Joist

- 3/4" plywood subfloor
- joists, 16" apart on center



Plywood & Joist with Radiant Heat

- 3/4" plywood subfloor
- joists, 16" apart on center
- radiant heat mounted between joists



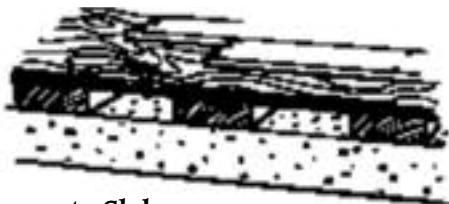
Concrete Slab

- 3/4" plywood subfloor
- concrete



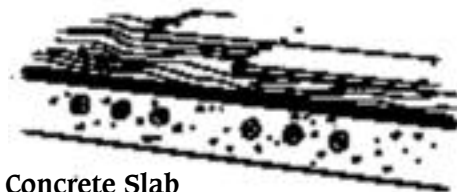
Concrete Slab with Sleepers

- 3/4" plywood subfloor
- 2" x 4" sleepers set into slab, 16" on center
- concrete



Concrete Slab with Mock Air System

- 3/4" plywood subfloor
- 2" x 4" mounted on slab, 16" on center
- concrete



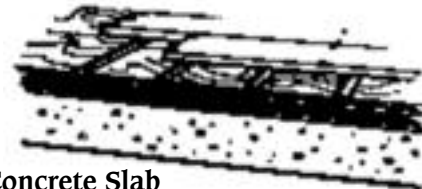
Concrete Slab with Radiant Heat

- 3/4" plywood subfloor
- radiant heat set into concrete
-



Concrete Slab with Radiant Heat and Sleepers

- 3/4" plywood subfloor
- radiant heat set into concrete
- 2" x 4" sleepers set into concrete, 16" on center
- concrete



Concrete Slab with Mounted Radiant Heat

- rubber radiant heat system
- 5/8" plywood, routed to hold heat tubing
- 3/4" plywood subfloor
- concrete

Installation-Plywood & Joist Subfloor

Eastern White Pine

T&G 6"-12" planks running perpendicular to joists

1. You may either lay down 15 lb. felt paper as a barrier or apply adhesive.
2. Blind nail the floor every 8" through the tongues.
3. Face nail using a 3" cut nail every 32" on center (every other joist) into the floor joist.
4. These nails should be set just slightly below the surface of the floor.

Please note:

Refer to pg. 7 for T&G 13" or wider planks running in any direction.

Illus: 5
Some flooring requires blind nailing and face nailing. See pg. 12 for face nailing patterns.

Square Edge & Shiplap Edge 13"-20" planks running perpendicular to joists

1. You may either lay down 15 lb. felt paper as a barrier or apply adhesive.
2. Face nail using a 3" cut nail every 16" on center into the floor joist.
3. These nails should be set just slightly below the surface of the floor. Staggering will create a more traditional/authentic look.

These pages present the most common techniques for installing a wide plank floor.

If you have any questions, just give us a call at 800-595-9663.



Installation-Plywood & Joist Subfloor

Eastern White Pine

Important: If you purchased random widths, do not install your floor in a repeating pattern.

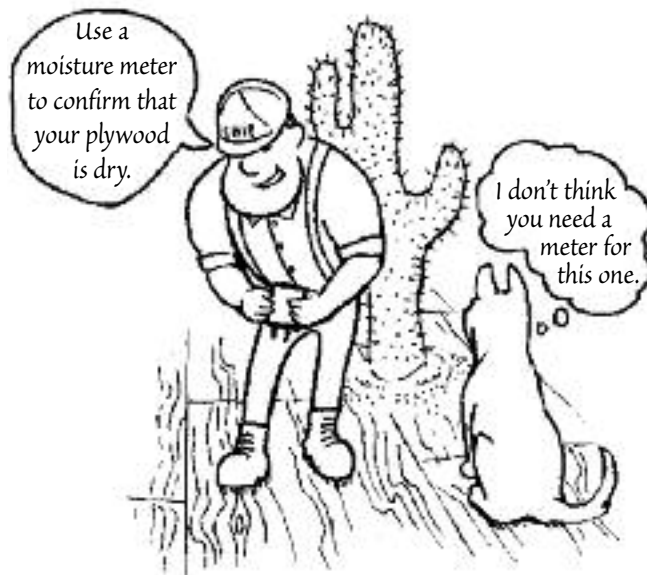
See note below, or call Carlisle at 1-800-595-9663.

T&G planks, running in the direction of your choice

The planks can run in any direction that you like, although, with a plywood and joist subfloor, you may have slightly more give in the floor if the direction of the board is not perpendicular to the joist.

1. Apply a subfloor adhesive to the back of each floorboard (refer to Adhesives, pg. 10).
2. Blind nail the floor every 8" through the tongues.
3. For planks 12" and wider, face nail with Antique Cut Nails to set the board into the glue. Nailing every 32" on center will give the look of an antique joist system. Please refer to the section on Nailing, pg. 11.

Note: Installing random widths planks If you ordered a random width floor, you should put the planks down randomly. All of the old floors were random widths, with each plank a different size. Do not install your floor in a repeating pattern. If you do, you will run out of certain widths of planks before the floor is finished. This is because you have equal square footages with each width, not equal *linear* footages.



illus: 7

It's important to install your floor on dry plywood.

Installation-Plywood & Joist Subfloor Hardwoods & Old Growth Heart Pine

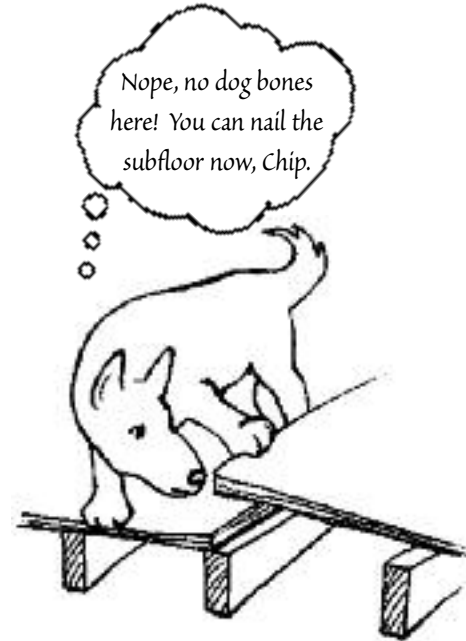
We recommend that these products be milled with a T&G edge and that the following instructions be followed:

The planks can run in any direction that you would like. However, if the planks run parallel to the joists you may get slightly more “give” unless you increase the thickness of your subfloor and secure it properly. You can eliminate bounce by using adhesive.

1. Apply a subfloor adhesive to the back of each floorboard (refer to Adhesives, pg. 10).
2. Blind nail the plank every 8" through the tongues.
3. You may face nail with Antique Cut Nails for a traditional look.
4. You will need to pre-drill these floors before face nailing.

Please note:

For planks 10" or wider, an occasional face nail or finish nail in the end of the board will help set the board into the adhesive.



*Illus: 8
Make sure your subfloor is
secured properly before
installing your floor.*

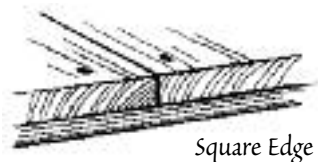
Installation-Concrete Slab Subfloor

All Woods

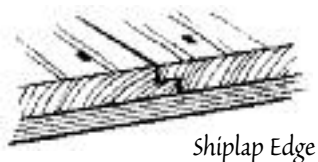
Note: Before you install your flooring, make sure that the concrete slab is thoroughly cured and that the plywood is dry. See pg. 3 for more information about acclimation.

Heart Pine, Recycled Woods, Hardwoods, Eastern White Pine (6"-12") (All edges)

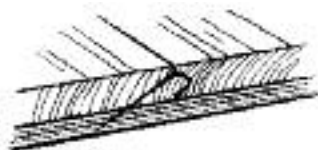
1. Install vapor barrier over slab.
2. If you have radiant heat, make certain to measure where your tubes are running in order to avoid puncturing the tubes.
3. Lay out 3/4" plywood and nail to slab. Begin nailing at the center of the sheet and nail every 12".
4. Apply adhesives (refer to pg. 10).
5. Blind nail each floorboard every 6-8" through the tongue using a power nailer or pneumatic stapler. Standard t-nails or staples at least 1-1/2" long can be used.



Square Edge



Shiplap Edge



Tongue & Groove

Eastern White Pine (over 12") (All edges)

1. Install vapor barrier over slab.
2. Lay 2x4" sleepers every 16" on center. Lay them perpendicular to the direction in which you want the floor to run.
3. Attach sleepers with a Hilti power nailer or pneumatic stapler.
4. Glue and nail a 3/4" plywood or OSB board to the sleepers.
5. Apply adhesive to the back of each floorboard.
6. Blind-nail every 6-8" with a power nailer, t-nail or pneumatic stapler.
7. Face nail using a 3" cut nail every 32" set into the sleeper (refer to pg. 12*).

* If you are face-nailing Square Edge or Shiplap Edge, two nails every 16" into the sleepers is sufficient for widths up to 14". For wider planks, staggering a 3-2-3-2 pattern is recommended. See pg. 12 for more information on nailing patterns.

Illus: 9, 10, 11

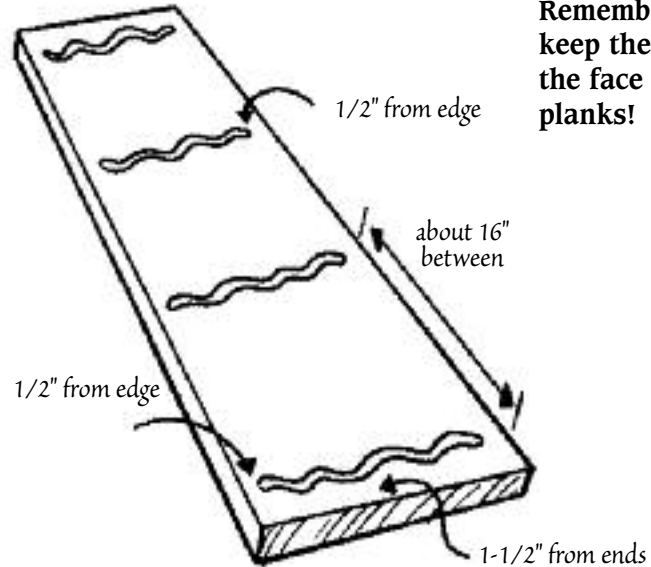
Here are various finished edges.

Adhesives

We recommend that you use **PL-400** or **PL-Premium** by **ChemRex**. They should be available at your local hardware store or lumber yard. The PL products will hold the wood tightly without becoming too hard or brittle. This "flexibility" allows the adhesive to adjust to minor fluctuations in your planks without cracking or losing its holding power. The PL products come in a caulking gun tube for easy application. Commonly used by flooring contractors and installation professionals, these full spread mastics are also recommended by us: **Franklin LS-711 for Wide Plank** or **Bostik's full spread mastics**.

Application of PL 400 or PL Premium

1. Cut the end of the tube to create about a 1/4" opening.
2. Apply a bead of glue across the back of the board, with the first bead about 1-1/2" from the end of the plank (refer to illustration on this pg.).
3. The beads should be placed about 8-10" apart.
4. Keep the glue about 1/2" from the edge of the plank. If glue squeezes into the joint between planks it becomes difficult to close the edge seams.



Illus: 12
Applying adhesive to
the back of the plank.

**Remember, always
keep the glue off
the face of the
planks!**

Face Nailing

When customers want the look of an antique or traditional floor, they often want the look that face nailing adds. Original joist construction consisted of rough hewn timber and most often the floor joists were logs with only the upper face hewn for a flat surface. Due to the size of these log-joists, it was not necessary to have them 16" on center. Typically, the joists were 32" on center. In the oldest homes, the flooring planks were nailed directly into the joists, using the handwrought cut nails provided by the blacksmith. The planks were nailed with 3-4" cut nails every 32" and lay as flat today as they did when first laid.

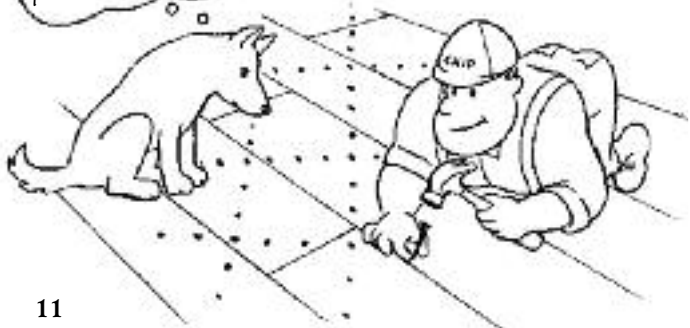
Today, we recommend the traditional method of face nailing for our widest planks. We also provide replicas of the original cut nails, with an improved structural shank, so that the look and stability of your floor will

equal that of its predecessors. Please note: See the Installation Section for when you should use Face Nailing.

Old Growth Eastern White Pine

1. See sketches for nailing pattern options on pg. 12.
2. Slightly angle the nail toward the center of the board when nailing on the edge.
3. Slightly angle the nail toward the butt joint when nailing on the ends.
4. The nails should be placed about 1 to 1-1/2" from the edge and from the end of each floorboard to avoid splitting your board.
5. You may want to pre-drill near the end of the floorboard, or when a nail falls near a knot, to make sure that you do not split the wood.

Did you READ about traditional nailing patterns?



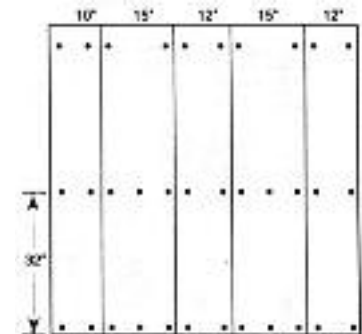
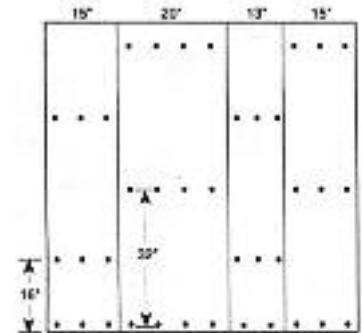
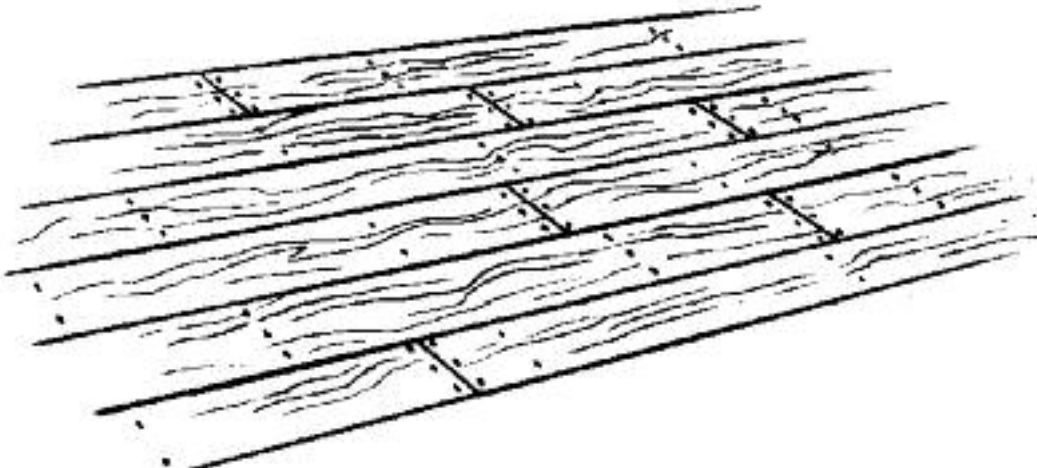
illus: 13

Check out the traditional nailing patterns on the opposite page.

Hardwoods and Old Growth Heart Pine

1. These woods are typically blind nailed and glued. Face nailing the planks is generally done only for aesthetic purposes, although, with wider planks, face nailing helps to set the planks into the glue.
2. We recommend that you use our 1-1/2" Antique Cut Nails for this purpose.
3. The patterns for aesthetic nailing usually replicate traditional patterns for structural nailing. However, you can use whatever pattern works best for the look you want to achieve.

4. For these woods, you will find it easier to pre-drill the planks. This procedure will help eliminate splits in the wood from nailing.
5. The patterns for structural nailing would be the same as those shown.



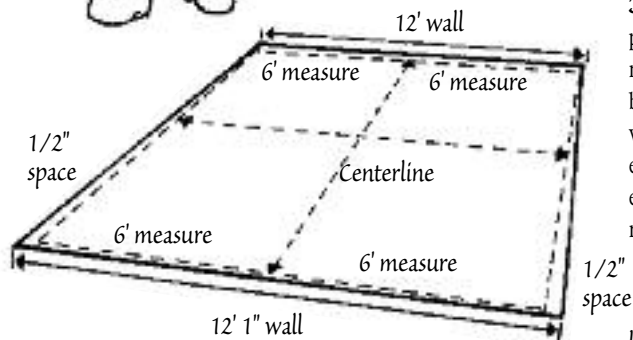
Illus: 14, 15 & 16

The options for nailing are numerous. Here are just a few examples of the more traditional patterns.

Getting The Layout Started



1. Begin by checking to make sure that the walls running parallel to your flooring are parallel to each other. This can be done by measuring the distance between the two walls at either end of the room.
2. If the walls are parallel, measure a given distance from your beginning wall at both ends of the room. Usually this distance will be one-half the width of your room. For example: if you have a room that is 12' wide, measure 6' from either end of your beginning wall, make a mark on the subfloor, and then snap a chalk line between the two marks. This line will now act as a marker to insure that your flooring runs parallel all the way across the room.



3. If the walls are not parallel, you need to measure out from your beginning wall half the width of your room at either end of the wall. For example: at one end, your room measures 12' across

and at the other end your room measures 12'1". At the end of the room that measures 12', you will measure out 6'; at the end of your room that measures 12'1", you will measure out 6', leaving a 1/2" gap at the wall. Mark these distances on your subfloor and snap a chalk line between the two marks. This line will act as a marker as you work your way across the floor. This method allows you to take out the "unsquareness" of your room from both walls, so instead of having a 1" gap on one wall, you have a 1/2" gap on both walls.

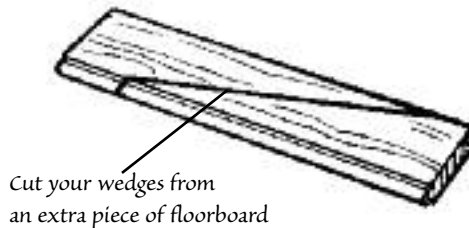
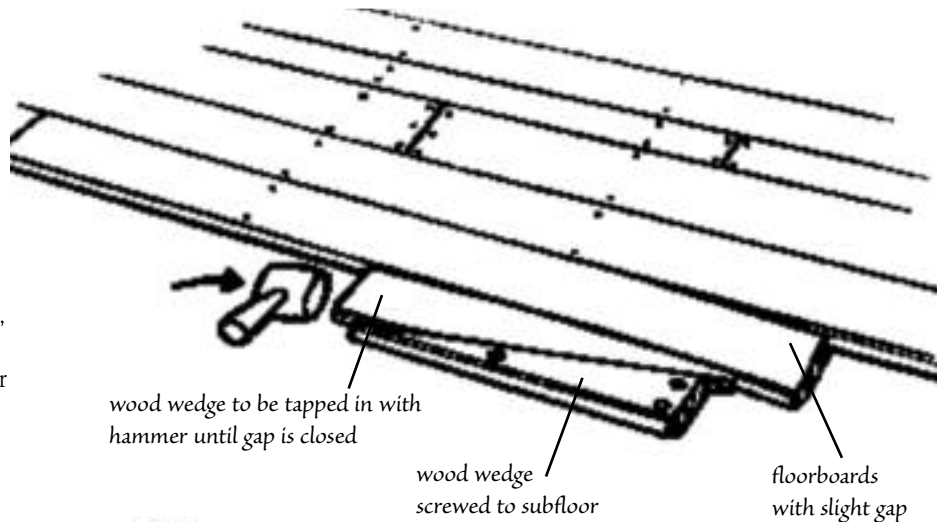
4. You are now ready to lay your first board! Lay your first board down approximately 1/8" from your side wall and your end wall. Measure the distance from each end of the board to your chalk line marker. It is very important that these distances are exactly equal as it is the first row and will determine the parallel nature of the rest of your floor. If the length of your room is greater than the length of one board, you need to measure and cut the second board to complete the first row. The process for the second board is the same as the process for your first board. Lay it down, match

illus: 17

Room measurement is critical before you start laying down your first board.

the one end to the board you already have down, and measure the other end out to your chalk line marker, making sure the distances are equal. If you are working with an unsquare room, you can check to see if you are on the right track. Using the example previously mentioned with a 12' room, you should have an 1/8" gap at the narrow end of your room and a $1/8" + 1/2" = 5/8"$ gap at the wider end of your room. You needn't worry about gaps of this size — that's what baseboard is for! Make sure the sample baseboard you are using is wider than 5/8". If not, you must adjust accordingly.

- Continue to lay the flooring, staggering the butt joints and periodically checking to see that your rows are maintaining a consistent distance from your chalk line marker. Once you reach the marker line, you can use the approaching wall as your marker. As you get ready to lay the second row, think about the look you want your floor to have. Most people push the boards up tight against one another, but some people want to achieve a more rustic look by leaving a slight gap. If you are leaving a slight gap, it is important to constantly measure out to your marker line so that you can be sure the gap is consistent and that the flooring continues to run parallel.



- Old Homes Only:** Don't despair if your subfloors in an old home are uneven! This is common, and can be dealt with easily while installing your wide plank floors. Please give us a call so we can head you in the right direction.

illus: 18
 If a board gives you a little trouble, use a wedge to install it. The wedge should be at least 12" long. Use T&G wedge on T&G planks. Hit the wedge toward the end that you haven't fastened down yet. Drive wedge with rubber mallet until the gap is closed.

Sanding

If you have any more specific questions about finishing your floor, we will be happy to help you.

1. At this point, your floors are all installed. If you would like to sand the floors, do so now. Sanding will create a floor that is more formal.
2. Because our flooring is milled to be very smooth, most people do not commercially sand the floors, especially when dealing with the Eastern White Pine. Many people feel that unsanded floors have more character.
3. You may choose to “screen” or buff the floors, especially if you purchased a hardwood. This will give you a look that is in between sanding with a drum sander and not sanding at all.



Illus: 19

*Think twice before sanding your floors.
They may not need it.*

Finishing Instructions

Think about the style you want to create. How dark or light do you wish the rooms to be? How rustic or contemporary do you want your floors to be? What degree of wear and tear will your floors receive? All of these factors will play a role in how you will finish the floors.

Please note: **these instructions apply only to Carlisle products.** We cannot guarantee similar results with other companies' products.

To Begin

Once the stain is applied to the flooring, it becomes much more difficult to change your mind. Therefore, we highly recommend you begin by making small color samples with a piece of flooring. If you want to see the stain on a larger section, rather than a small sample piece, we suggest applying the stain to a hidden area such as a closet.

Be sure to use adequate ventilation.

Because the finish coats can affect the stain color and look of the grain structure, we also suggest applying 1 or 2 coats of finish over the stain on your sample piece. This will give you a true example of the final color of your flooring.

The stain we recommend is **Zar**. It is excellent because it penetrates evenly, without blotching, and doesn't require you to immediately wipe the floors after applying the stain. **Minwax** is our second choice of stain.

If you need help finding the stains or getting the color or look you need, please let us assist you. Remember, you are free to mix stain colors in an attempt to achieve the look you desire; however, the proportions you use for your sample must be exactly replicated to finish the entire floor.

Remember:
It is important to measure the proportions of stain and mark them down for future color matching.



illus: 20
Call Carlisle at 800-595-9663
for detailed advice.

Finishing Instructions

Remember:
If you are not commercially sanding the floor, it is very important to keep the floors clean while installing them.

step 1: CLEANING

When the installation process is complete, make sure your new floors are vacuumed **clean**. If there are any dirt spots on the floor, we recommend that you use mineral spirits or paint thinner to clean these areas. **DO NOT SPOT SAND.** Spot sanding will unevenly open the grains of the wood and will cause the stain to go on unevenly.



step 2: WOOD CONDITIONER

THIS STEP APPLIES only IF YOU SANDED YOUR FLOORS!

1. If you commercially sanded the floor, then a wood conditioner must be applied to your floors before the stain to ensure even penetration of the stain. Apply the conditioner with a brush or lamb's wool applicator. We recommend a clear wood conditioner by **Minwax**, although there are many other brands available. Instead of the conditioner, you may use one **light** coat of **Tung Oil Finish** before staining.
2. Be sure to let the conditioner or Tung Oil dry completely before applying the stain.

illus: 21

The cleaning process is very important to the finishing results.

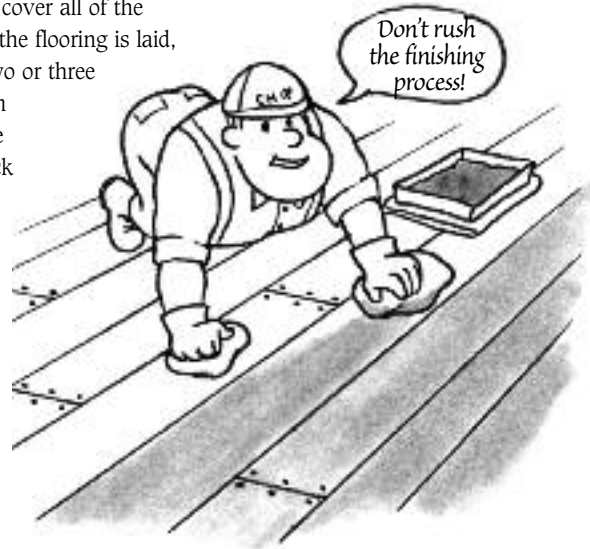
step 3: STAINING

1. Once you choose your stain color, be sure that the stain is stirred for at least 5 minutes. This ensures that all of the pigment from the bottom of the can is stirred in with the stain and keeps the color of your floors uniform from one gallon to the next.
2. If you have mixed colors, try to make one huge batch of stain that will cover your whole floor. Then, you won't have to worry about mixing the exact colors again because you have run out of the mixture half-way through the finishing process.
3. If you wish to have a lighter color, you can dilute the stain with Tung Oil. If you choose to mix the stain with the Tung Oil, you will only use this mixture for the first coat.

step 4: APPLYING THE STAIN

1. You want to have enough time to stain the entire floor at once. It is possible to break between rooms, i.e. on thresholds. However, stopping in the middle of a room will leave a line that you won't be able to blend in once you return to finish the job.

2. Apply the stain evenly with a sponge brush, paint brush, or rags, making sure to cover all of the planks. Move in the direction the flooring is laid, not across the boards. Take two or three rows of flooring and stain them completely from one end to the other, then work your way back down the room with a new set of rows. This method facilitates blending the stain that is being applied with the stain already applied because they will meet on the straight edge of each row.
3. You may want to wipe excess stain off the floors with a rag to ensure the stain is evenly applied. If you want your stain to be darker, just let the stain soak for a minute or two before wiping off the excess stain.
4. Let the stain dry completely, usually about 8-12 hours, depending on the humidity level in the room.



Illus: 22

Wear rubber gloves and use a 6" brush or sponge to apply the stain. Stroke along the grain for the full length of the floor. Wipe off any excess with a clean rag.

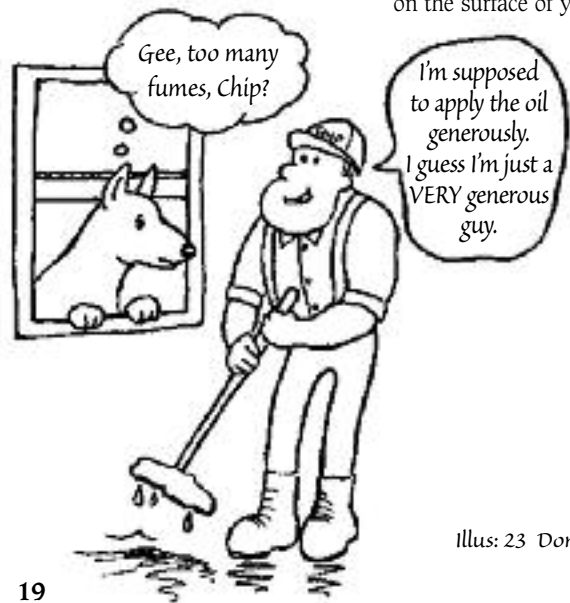
Finishing Instructions

Be sure to use adequate ventilation

We recommend Tung Oil Finish, but there are many other good finishes being used on our floors with great results. Call us and we'll be happy to talk with you about the different options available for finishing your floor.

step 5: APPLYING TUNG OIL FINISH

1. We recommend that you apply 4 coats of **Tung Oil Finish**. This will create an even build-up of finish on the surface of your floor that will protect it.



2. The coverage for the transparent sealer is about 450 sq.ft./gal, which is fairly heavy. The easiest way to apply this finish is to simply mop it on with a lamb's wool square that is attached to the end of a drywall sanding pole.

3. Apply the Tung Oil in the same manner as the stain, finishing 3 or 4 boards the length of the room. **You do not wipe off the finish after it is applied.**

4. Let the finish dry! Dry time will vary from job site to job site; however, the average time is about 8 hours.

5. Sand lightly with 220 grit sand paper between coats. If you used a drywall sanding pole for an applicator, you can attach the sand paper to this same pole.

6. Use a tack cloth between coats for the smoothest application.

7. The four coat application of Tung Oil will result in a light sheen on the floor. However, after a single damp mopping, or after just a few months of time, this sheen will deepen into a glow that is reminiscent of a well-oiled antique floor.

Note: If you are applying a finish other than our recommended Tung Oil Finish, we still recommend that you apply at least two coats of Tung Oil to your floor prior to applying the final finish. These two coats of Tung Oil will completely seal your floor against any spills or stains, while at the same time limiting the natural moisture variations that cause a floor to expand and contract.

illus: 23 Don't skimp on the Tung Oil. It will penetrate and protect your new floor.

Maintenance & Refinishing

Maintenance

If you finished your floor with four coats of Tung Oil, you can wash it on an “as needed” basis with a glass cleaner like Windex or vinegar. With either product, mix one cup to one gallon water. You can use Murphy’s Oil Soap for a more hand-waxed look.

Refinishing

The frequency with which you refinish your floors will depend on the level of wear and tear the floors get, and how you want your floors to look. If you want your floors to retain a high luster and look “newer,” you may apply another coat of finish in a few years. For an older, more worn appearance, you may not apply another coat for 10-15 years! Waxing between coats of finish is also a possibility, although this requires a higher degree of maintenance over the years.

Spot Refinishing

If you used the Tung Oil Finish, you can apply additional Tung Oil in just the spots that wear the quickest (i.e. in front of the refrigerator). To do this, lightly sand the area to be refinished and wipe clean, then apply another coat of Tung Oil. This spot will blend fairly quickly into the rest of your floor.



Illus: 24

You can spot refinish high traffic areas of your floor.

Frequently Asked Questions

Important: If you purchased random widths, do not install your floor in a repeating pattern.

See note here, or call Carlisle at 1-800-595-9663.

Q: What installation sequence should I use if I purchased random width planks?

A: If you ordered a random width floor, you should put the planks down randomly. All of the old floors were random widths, with each plank a different size. DO NOT INSTALL YOUR FLOOR IN A REPEATING PATTERN. If you do, you will run out of certain widths of planks before the floor is finished because you are more apt to have fairly equal square footages of each width, not *linear* footages.

Q: How can I stay out of trouble when the room is longer than the board lengths?

A: Plan ahead. Before you begin a run that is more than one board long, make sure that you have enough boards of the same width to complete the run.

Q: When I work with Eastern White Pine, where should I break the butt joints?

A: Break them over the floor joists so that face nailing will be at the end of the boards.

Q: How do I get the butt joints to match as tightly as possible?

A: If butt joints are not cut square, they will not match as tightly as they should. If you are using a Skil-saw, you should use a finish quality blade and a builder's square, or some other jig, as a guide for your cut. Cutting the butt joints with a 2-3 degree back bevel also works well.

Q: What should I do when I can't get a T&G plank to seat properly?

A: Don't bang directly on the tongue of the plank: this will damage the plank and make it more difficult to install the next one. Instead, take a piece of scrap wood, place it on the tongue of the plank that's causing the problem, and bang on the scrap (refer to pg. 14).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If a plank has a slight bow in the middle, can I still use it?

A: Yes. See our wedging method on pg. 14.

Q: I've gotten a glob of PL400 glue on my floor. How can I get it off?

A: Turpentine or mineral spirits should do the trick.

Q: I never seem to have a tack cloth when I need one. Is there a substitute I can use?


A: Sure. Find a lint-free rag and rub a little Tung Oil Finish into it, just enough to make it feel slightly sticky.

Q: When my new floor arrives at my home, will I need help to take it off the truck?

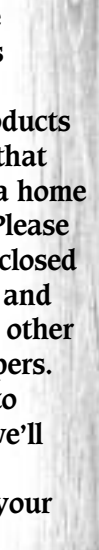
A: Yes. It's a good idea to have a couple of helpers with you to unload the truck and carry the planks into their new, safe and dry environment.

Q: For blind-nailing, am I better off using a T-nail or a staple?

A: Both methods are acceptable to secure wide plank floors, although we prefer T-nails because they tend to draw the planks together a little tighter.



If you have any questions not covered in this manual, please call us at 1-800-595-9663.



For insurance purposes, it is important to document products and features that add value to a home or building. Please fill out the enclosed Owner's Card and file with your other important papers. Or send it in to Carlisle and we'll keep it in our database for your future use.



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